

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, YO (MIHAJLOVIC)

SUBJECT: ETHNIC SERB COMMEMORATION OF MIHAJLOVIC'S
BIRTHDAY

1. APPROXIMATELY 75 PEOPLE CONGREGATED ON THE WEST STEPS OF THE CAPITOL THIS MORNING TO COMMEMORATE GEN. MIHAJLOVIC'S BIRTHDAY. PARTICIPANTS APPARENTLY INCLUDED GROUPS OF ETHNIC SERBS FROM CHICAGO AND NYC. WHILE THE TURNOUT WAS MINISCULE, THE EVENT WAS NOT WITHOUT SOME SIGNIFICANCE, SINCE CONGRESSMEN ED DERWINSKI, PHILIP CRANE, AND SENATOR GALE MCGEE AND EX-GOVERNOR LAUSCHE ALL SPOKE. THE PRINCIPAL THEME, IN ADDITION TO THE OBVIOUS REFERENCES TO MIHAJLOVIC'S HEROIC ANTI-NAZI EFFORTS, WAS A GENERAL AGREEMENT ON THE DESIRABILITY OF HAVING A STATUE OF MIHAJLOVIC ERECTED SOMEWHERE IN WASHINGTON.

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2. GRANFIL RAISED THIS MATTER WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY

HOLTON AND DEPUTY ASST. SECRETARY JENKINS LAST WEEK. SHOULD YOU RECEIVE AN EXPRESSION OF OFFICIAL CONCERN BASED ON THE YUGOSLAV EMBASSY'S REPORTING, THE ABOVE INFORMATION MAY PROVE HELPFUL IN EMPHASIZING THAT THE EVENT PASSED PRACTICALLY UNNOTICED IN WASHINGTON. ALTHOUGH THERE WAS SOME INDIVIDUAL CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATION, THERE WAS NO RPT NO OFFICIAL REPRESENTATION FROM EXECUTIVE BRANCH.

3. AT DEPARTMENT'S REQUEST, EXECUTIVE PROTECTION SERVICE HAS BEEN DEVOTING ADDITIONAL SPECIAL ATTENTION TO YUGOSLAV EMBASSY AND RESIDENCE OF YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR SINCE JULY 16. ATTENTION WILL CONTINUE UNTIL ETHNIC GROUPS FROM CHICAGO AND NYC DEPART. DEPARTMENT HAS NO RPT NO INFORMATION SUGGESTING POSSIBLE DEMONSTRATION AGAINST YUGOSLAV ESTABLISHMENTS IN WASHINGTON.

4. BEGIN FYI - SENATOR MCGEE'S PRESENCE DERIVES FROM FACT THAT AS US FLIER DURING WORLD WAR II HE WAS RESCUED BY MIHAJLOVIC'S "CHETNIKS" AFTER BEING SHOT DOWN OVER YUGOSLAVIA. END FYI.

KISSINGER

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